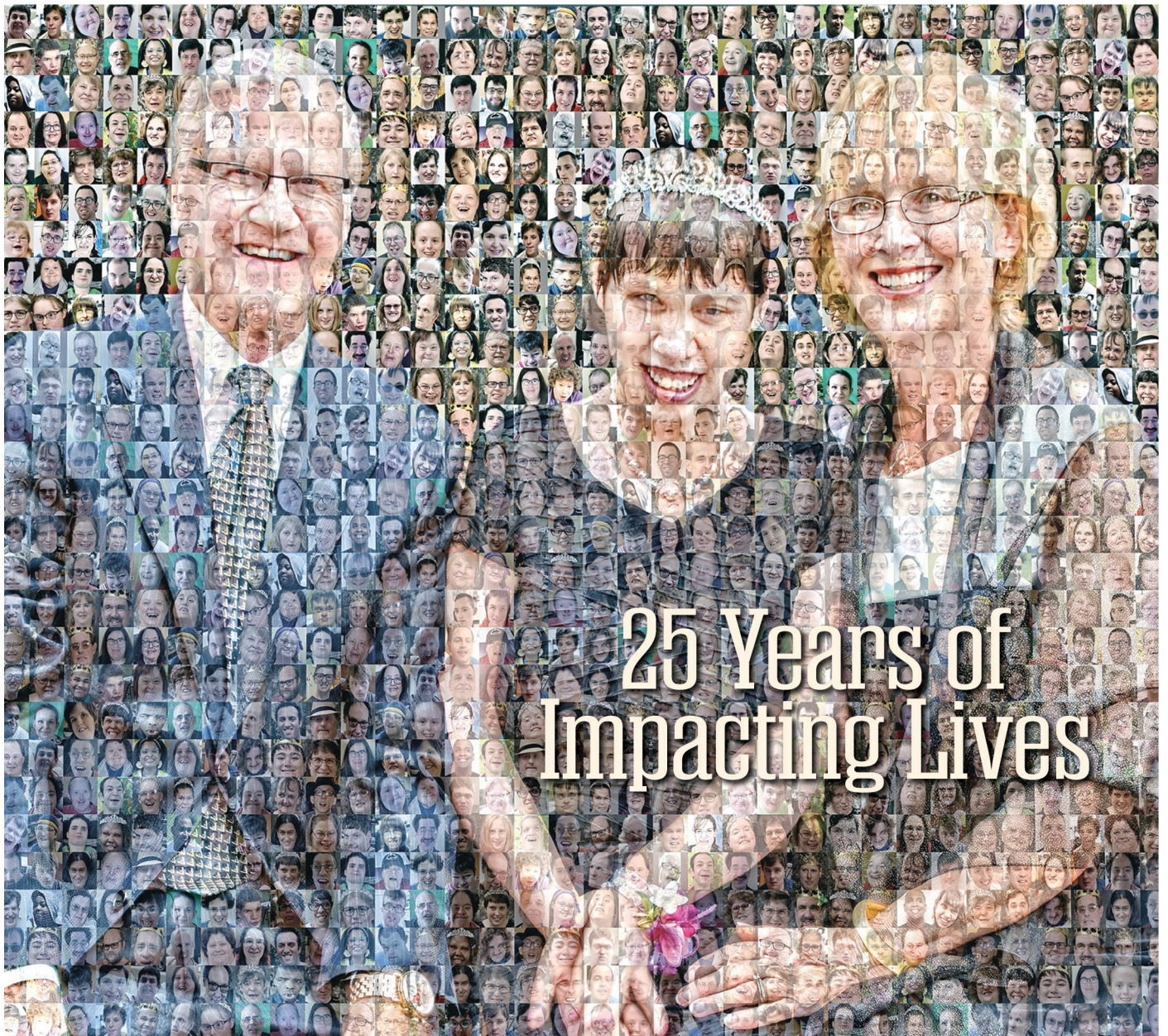


FALL 2023

Faith-based support
and services for
individuals with autism
and intellectual disabilities

Jessica &
Friends
community

25th
Anniversary



25 Years of
Impacting Lives

CELEBRATING God's Faithfulness

These past 25 years we look back and remember with thanksgiving God's provisions. He took our dream and made something beautiful for the families and individuals in our community. We have seen the joy of transformed lives and hope for the future. Now as we look to the future, God will continue to direct us to press forward with full assurance of His blessing. He did it before, and He will do it again!

Jessica & Friends Community, with honored traditions and an enduring legacy built firmly on God's Word, is positioned strategically to continue providing faith-based support and services for families and individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities, not only in York/Adams Counties, but beyond.

In the confidence of God's faithfulness, we relentlessly press on to discover and implement by His grace what it takes to affirm the worth of all people, support personal growth and wholeness, and advocate for community and church inclusion.

Faithful friends like you mean the world to us! We literally cannot do it without you! Would you consider adding to our joy by making a gift to Jessica & Friends Community today as we celebrate 25 years?

We have poured our whole life into this ministry. It is God's calling on us and you have stood strong with us as we have remained faithful to our mission. Your gift will be such a blessing to us because you inspire us to keep going for another 25 years!

Thank you so much for praying, serving, and giving alongside of us! Our eyes are now set to the future and all the Lord has for us.

Ever grateful for you,
Peter and Paulette Teague
Co-Founders



A Message from Jane Merolla, CEO

As autumn greets us, we're enjoying the onset of seasonably cooler temperatures as fall finally settles in. The change of seasons is God's invitation to gather the harvest and share its blessings with family and friends. The longer nights and refreshing cool air opens our hearts to reinvigorating what works and trying new things while we collectively keep our mission and core values at the forefront.

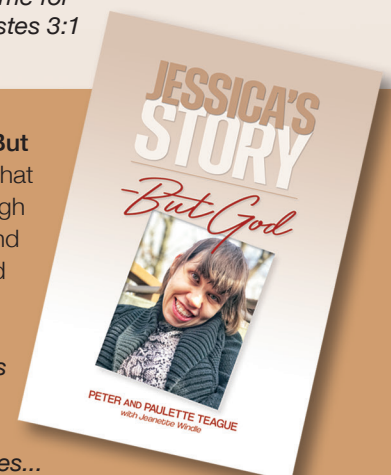
Although the new season has just begun, fall has brought a flurry of activity here at Jessica & Friends Community. Autumn's kick off began with our annual Fall Festival at Indian Rock Acres, followed by the Gala celebrating the 25th Anniversary of our founding, as well as the extension of our mission into Franklin and Fulton Counties. We are pleased to have welcomed eighteen Franklin County residents into our services during the month of September alone.

With the passing of summer, looking forward to those first fluffy snowflakes of winter, with gratitude we invite ourselves to notice the Lord's presence in all things bright and beautiful (Alexander, 1848). We wish you peace and blessings as you explore and surrender to the Autumn season.

For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under Heaven. - Ecclesiastes 3:1

Available on Amazon, **Jessica's Story - But God**, shares the remarkable journey of what God has done and continues to do through Jessica's life. This book is reaching beyond our borders, as far as Spain, England and Uganda. As one reader commented, *"I was deeply moved by this beautiful witness to God's amazing grace and His faithfulness to a family who has trusted Him so fully to celebrate His goodness even in the midst of significant challenges..."*

My own spiritual cup overflowed as I read this wonderful testimony." Please consider writing a comment on Amazon if this book has been an encouragement to you.





A Life-Changing Trip

BY PETER & PAULETTE TEAGUE

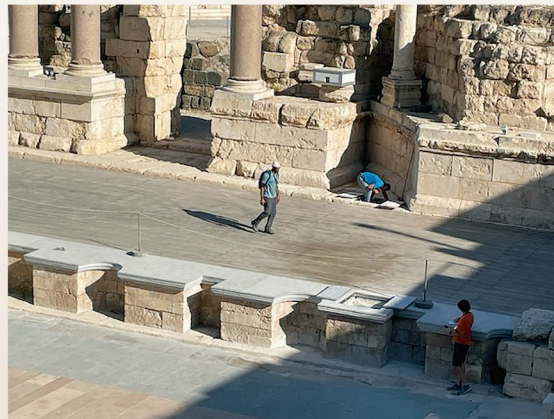
In celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Jessica & Friends Community we recently joined 39 friends on a twelve-day pilgrimage to Israel. We are thankful to Dr. Jim Ayers who skillfully led our pilgrimage as he shared his knowledge and experiences gained through 20 trips to Israel. We learned perspectives and realities of the Holy Land which can only be gleaned through first hand encounters.

Some of the highlights of our trip included:

- Walking in the Galilee region where Jesus and the twelve spent much time in ministry
- Floating in the Dead Sea
- Seeing the desert oasis and caves where King David hid from King Saul
- Worshipping God by moonlight in a boat on the Sea of Galilee
- Sitting on the ancient temple steps where Jesus engaged religious leaders
- Exploring Herod the Great's architectural wonders
- Sifting through archeological remains
- Retracing Jesus' path into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday
- Reading passage of scripture on the location where biblical events occurred
- Pondering the death and resurrection of Jesus through a Communion service at the Garden Tomb
- Shopping in the marketplace of Jerusalem's Old City

As a friend summed it up so well, "It was a joy and privilege to tour the Holy Land with you. There were so many amazing sites to see which brought the Bible to life in a fresh way that has given me a new depth and understanding of God's Word."

Tragically, two weeks after we returned, a horrific attack was launched from the Hamas terrorist group against Israel. Please pray for peace and justice in the Holy Land. *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. - Psalm 122:6*



Jessica & Friends Community Celebrates Silver Jubilee

It was the talk of the town! The 25th Anniversary Gala was a magical evening filled with silver sparkles and white roses galore, but most importantly the company of good friends which brought laughter and joy. Many of our guests spent the entire day preparing themselves for the event... the gentlemen wore suits and formal attire while the ladies rocked their gowns and dresses! Gold crowns, sparkling tiaras, long stemmed roses and boutonnieres added the finishing touches to their grand attire.

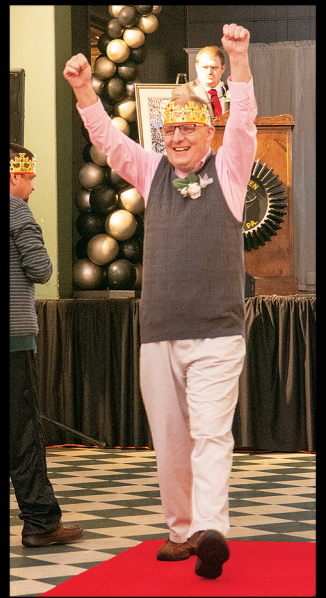
Stretch limousines transported our guests to the Wisheaven Event Center ballroom where each was greeted by over 400 attendees. The arrival of each honored guest was heralded by Aaron Spangler. As they walked the red carpet, all were cheered by thunderous applause. Following a delicious meal, everyone took their best moves to the dance floor. Glow sticks spread fluorescence, fairy lights twinkled, and our talented DJ, Chris Wagman, honored favorite song requests while our excellent photographers, Tiffany and Andrew Blackstone and Kim Martin, captured memories to last a lifetime. With grateful hearts, we wish to express thanks to our sponsors for helping to make this a night to remember.

This overwhelming success took over six months of planning. Thank you to everyone who worked very hard to make this the most memorable evening Jessica & Friends Community has ever had. Special thanks to Sally Janora and the gala committee.





Congratulations! Proclamations from the Senate of Pennsylvania and County Commissioners, Doug Hoke and Julie Weaver, were presented to the Teague's.



Jeremy's Garden

BY JIM SROUR



After a prolonged period of drought and a mishap with our water supply, we were finally blessed with enough rain to keep the garden growing. Our individuals were able to take home a considerable quantity of strawberries and vegetables, and the orchard is about to give us our first apples and pears! Everyone enjoyed participating in all aspects of gardening. It was so much fun to see them coming with smiles and real excitement for the day.



In addition to the gardening, we observed other evidence of God's beautiful creation including the hatching of bird's eggs, development of flowers, pumpkins and watermelons. We sampled tea made from homegrown mint and ate lots of strawberries!

Our esteemed volunteers from the York Garden Club did a wonderful job teaching us about many aspects of gardening including the insects that are attracted to our fruits and

vegetables. Beautiful floral arrangements were created and delivered to local nursing homes. Thank you to Miller's Farm for contributing additional flowers for our bouquets.

What a wonderful world we have been given. We have seen so much joy from all of the individuals who have participated. The program is coming to an end for this year and we are already looking forward to next year.

A PERFECT DAY FOR Fall Fest

Clear skies, mild temperatures and a refreshing Autumn breeze highlighted Jessica & Friends Community's Annual Fall Fest held on Saturday, September 30th at our Indian Rock Acres Retreat Center. With over fifty people in attendance, it was a day full of great food, guitar music and songs around the campfire, as well as flower arrangement crafts. All were graced by the special appearance of Fawn the therapy dog.

Thanks to the hospitality of Innkeepers Millie and Glenn Martin, it was a fabulous event enjoyed by all.



Giving from the Heart

We are so thankful for our friends at Bermudian Church who devoted their summer Vacation Bible School offerings to Jessica & Friends Community. We were astounded when we were presented with a check for \$3,919.15. Thank you to this beautiful group of children and adults who gave so generously to our ministry. A gift like this enables us to go above and beyond as we reach out to our friends with autism and intellectual disabilities who are a part of our community.



J&FC New Staff

Tammy Gelsinger, Director of Community Services



Tammy was born and raised in Chambersburg. She has been married to her best friend and high school sweetheart, Harold, for 33 years. They have two daughters, a son, and three grandchildren. Tammy was a Program Director for individuals with intellectual disabilities for 11 years and graduated from nursing school in 2013. She has always felt a calling to be an advocate for individuals with disabilities, and worked as a nurse with an agency that provided services for them. Tammy shared "I believe God put me on this earth to serve him and I love to be a caregiver to all His children. If we put God in the center of our lives and honor him, He will guide our footsteps until we see him in the Promised Land."

Kimberly Kennedy, Interim Director of Residential Services



Kim was born and raised in Harrisburg, and attended Shippensburg University where she received a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education majoring in Social Studies with a concentration in Political Science. While attending college, Kim worked in a group home and upon graduation continued working in Human Services. She has collaborated with grants for housing and housing for homeless individuals. Previously she was the Statewide Director of Housing, including HUD housing. Kim shared that she thoroughly enjoys working at J&FC. "The care and compassion of all the staff is amazing, and I am blessed to be here. God and Jane have led me here."

Denise Forsythe, Behavioral Support Assistant



Originally from North Carolina, Denise is a graduate of Kaplan University where she earned her Master's degree in Psychology. She has been blessed with a son and daughter, and five grandchildren. Her favorite activities are reading, cooking, traveling, spending time with family, and spoiling her grandbabies. Future dreams are to sky dive, scuba dive, zip line and ride in a hot air balloon.

Prayer Closet

- 1) We are thankful for God's faithfulness in pouring out his blessing to Jessica & Friends Community these past twenty-five years.
- 2) We are thankful for new staff who have joined us, and pray that God will continue to send those who will embrace the mission of J&FC.
- 3) We are thankful for a visionary CEO, along with mission fit professionals, who embrace the vision to meet the ever-growing needs surrounding us.
- 4) We are thankful for a committed and visionary Board of Directors who have prayerfully set forth a strategic plan for the next two year years.
- 5) Pray for comfort and peace for those in our J&FC family who are grieving the loss of a loved one.
- 6) Pray for Jessica's Story to be an encouragement to families, and that many will find hope through Christ and assurance that God has a plan and a purpose for every life.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Celebration

Sunday, December 10 at 6:00 pm,
Church of the Open Door,
8 Carlisle Court, York, PA

Inch & Co Hosts Fundraiser for J&FC



On July 30th, Inch & Co. hosted a Penn State Player Meet and Greet at Regents Glen Country Club. Four athletes representing Penn State attended, signing autographs as well as raffle items, such as a PSU cooler, helmets and t-shirts.



The event was attended by families, coaches and friends. Many thanks to Amy Brickner, former board member, and her family, and Bob Lehman of Penn State University Police and Public Safety, who represented J&FC at the event. The raffle was the best event, raising \$330. Thank you to Inch & Co. for hosting this event and choosing to benefit Jessica & Friends Community.



Celebrating our Direct Support Professionals

During the week of September 10-16, Jessica & Friends Community joined the annual celebration of Direct Support Professionals (DSP). Our DSP's were acknowledged daily for their commitment and compassionate care to our precious friends. Gift cards were presented to each one and daily drawings were held for additional gifts. We are so thankful for our dedicated DSP's.

Hiring Events for Future Staff

At J&FC, we offer an opportunity for you to get to know us a little better through our hiring events at various locations. Candidates can meet some of our staff, learn about our organization, and have their questions answered while enjoying refreshments and winning prizes. It is a fun and casual way to learn if Jessica & Friends Community is a good mission fit for you. Interested candidates can apply online through Indeed or our website at jandfcommunity.org.





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 Phone 717.747.9000
 Fax 888.509.2320
 jandfcommunity.org

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 CEO

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Janelle Greathouse
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 Director of Programs

Kim Kennedy
 Interim Director of Residential

Tammy Gelsing
 Director of Community Services

Sally Janora
 Ministry Support Coordinator

Amber Franklin
 Quality Assurance/
 Compliance Coordinator

Devin Sevret
 Assistant Director of Residential Services

JaQuan Green, Nadia Leon,
 Gretchen Rhodes, Devin Sevret,
 Mitch Spangler & Pam Tucker
 Managers, Residential Services

Glenn & Millie Martin
 Innkeepers, Indian Rock Acres

Scott Reynold
 Facility Manager

Jessica & Friends Community News
 is published quarterly to provide relevant
 updates and current issues of importance
 consistent with our mission to the families
 we serve, churches, friends and supporters.

Please send all correspondence
 including address corrections to:

Jessica & Friends Community
 Attention: Anne Fritts
 1625 East Market Street, York, PA 17403

Memorial and Honor Gifts

May 1, 2023 to July 31, 2023

IN HONOR OF/GIVEN BY:

Elsie Ahlbrandt
 Duane and Judy Ahlbrandt

Dru and Seth Almoney
 Mr. & Mrs. Brian Almoney
 Mr. Bill Staub

Bethany Godfrey
 Mrs. Miriam Leaman

Bethany Godfrey's Birthday
 Mr. & Mrs. Chip Godfrey

Shannon Graham
 Mr. Richard Kopp

Troy Hoenstine's Birthday
 Mrs. Peg O'Brien Yadon

Sally Janora
 Dr. & Mrs. Michael Snell

**Jayne, Shannon & Sarah (Ladies
 of Kadine's House)**
 Ms. Pamela Tucker

Sarah Keeney
 Joanne Godfrey, Ann Cleaver,
 Sandra Predix

Sarah Kemper
 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Good

Liz Lipsitz' 70th Birthday
 Mr. & Mrs. Harold Breneman

Jane Merolla
 Mrs. Sally Janora

Jeremy Srour
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Martin

Jim, Cushla and Jeremy Srour
 Jeanne Grillo and Robert Srour

Paulette Teague
 Mrs. Sally Janora

**Dr. & Mrs. Peter Teague's
 50th Anniversary**
 Mrs. RuthAnn Bailleis
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Brown
 Mrs. Sally Janora
 Mrs. Barbara Witwer

**Dr. & Mrs. Peter Teague in
 honor of Jessica & Friends
 Community's 25th Anniversary**
 Mr. & Mrs. Ken Musser

IIN MEMORY OF/GIVEN BY:

Quentin R. Foster
 Dr. & Mrs. Peter Teague

Matthew Grove
 Mr. Ted Grove

June and Kim Handwerker
 Mr. Robert Handwerker

Grace and Eugene Harken
 Mrs. Ramona Harken

John E. Hiestand
 Rev. & Mrs. Larry Carpenter

Mary Hildebrand
 Mrs. Eleanor Bosserman
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Buser
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Greenfield
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Howard
 Mrs. Sally Janora
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kuhn
 Matthew 6:21 Project
 Ms. Lee-Ann Miller
 Ms. Tracy Nitchie
 Rev. & Mrs. Ronald Rush
 Rev. & Mrs. Robert Shelley
 Ms. Pamela Tucker

Gloria Knippenberg
 Mr. Garnett Knippenberg

Celine Kilolo
 Mrs. Sally Janora

Steven A. Leber
 Mr. & Mrs. Leo Keim

Matthew Morris
 Mr. Jerry Gingerich
 Mr. Aaron Spangler

Sarah Myers
 Mr. & Mrs. Joe Brickner

Jan Newman
 Mrs. RuthAnn Bailleis
 Mrs. Sally Janora

J. Patrick Peters
 Mr. & Mrs. Scott Reynold

Diane Seldomridge
 Mr. Gary Seldomridge

Mary Skold
 Mr. & Mrs. William Holly
 Mr. Aaron Spangler
 Dr. & Mrs. Peter Teague
 Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Wolford

Kay Slatteback
 Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Tarman

George Tag
 Mrs. Deann Tag

Robert and Gladys Teague
 Mr. & Mrs. John Delozier

Muriel and Dexter Tucker
 Dr. Shirley Tucker

Hal White
 Dr. & Mrs. Peter Teague

Jacob Young
 Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Young

SUPPORT CENTER: 1625 EAST MARKET STREET, YORK, PA 17403